REMARKS

Rejections under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1 and 3-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being over Osaka Gas Co., Ltd. (Foreign Patent Publication JP 2002-173689), JP '689 herein, in view JP '044 (Foreign Patent Publication JP 2001-274044) and in view of Yata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,753,717) and further in view of Kirk-Othmer (Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology, p. 1-45).

The following table shows comparison between present claim 1, JP'689 and JP'044.

	Claim 1	JP'689	JP'044
Product	hydrocarbon material	polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon material [0001]	polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon material [0001]
Raw Material	polysaccharide-based raw material	coal tar pitch or oil pitch, also, can be cellulose, etc. [0013]	coal tar pitch or oil pitch, also, can be cellulose, etc. [0024]
O concentration of Raw Material	34.6% to 45%	20 % or more (preferably 24～32%) [0019]	[20 % or more (preferably 24～32%)] ([0027] is the same as [0018] of JP'689)
(a) H/C (atomic ratio)	0.05 to 0.5	0.05 to 0.5 [0012]	0.05 to 0.5 [0022]
(b) Specific Surface Area, measured by the BET method	600 to 2000 m^2/g	1500 m^2/g or more [0012]	1500 m^2/g or more [0022]
(c) Mesopore Volume, (measured by the BJH method)	0.02 to 1.2 ml/g most preferably 0.02-0.2 ml/g	**Not Discussed**	**differentiation pore volume of 30 Å (3 nm)** 0.4 ml/g or less [0022]
(d) Total Pore Volume, (measured by the MP method)	0.3 to 1.25 ml/g	0.2 ml/g or more [0012] (preferably 0.2 ～0.8% [0030])	0.4 ml/g or more [0022]

(e) Bulk Density for an electrode obtained using the hydrocarbon material.	0.60 g/ml or higher	**Not Discussed**	**Not Discussed** (comparative example 2 and 3 of present application)

Thus, claim 1 recites "(c) a mesopore volume, measured by the BJH method, of 0.02 to 1.2 ml/g," and "(e) a bulk density of 0.60 g/ml or higher for an electrode obtained using the hydrocarbon material."

It should be noted that claim 1 recites "(c) a **mesopore volume**, measured by the BJH method, of 0.02 to 1.2 ml/g." Thus, the mesopore volume of the present invention is 0.02 to 1.2 ml/g (claim 1). The term "mesopore" herein means 2-50 nm pores. As indicated in the above table, JP' 689 (JP 2002-173689) is silent as to the mesopore volume.

The Examiner alleges that JP' 044 (JP 2001-274044) teaches a mesopore volume of 0.4 ml/g or less; this allegation is probably because paragraph [0022] of JP' 044 states that the BJH method is used to determine the mesopore distribution. In JP' 044, however, the BJH method is used to measure a "**differentiation pore volume of 30 Å (3 nm)**", i.e., a derivative of pore volume. As explained in paragraph [0036] of JP'044, the meaning "differentiation pore volume $\Delta V/\Delta \log d$" is completely different from that of "pore volume **V**." Therefore, JP' 044 does not teach or suggest the mesopore volume.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 patentably distinguish over JP' 689 and JP' 044.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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